

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00260 120930Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 120730Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 169
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TU, US, UK
SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS COMMENT ON ARREST OF TURKISH INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER

1. PRESS COMMENT ON THE REPORTED ARREST OF A TURKISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT DIED OUT COMPLETELY. MOST RECENT WAS THE LEAD ARTICLE (FRONT PAGE) IN THE JAN 11 "DIPLOMAT", A WEEKLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF NEWS AND ANALYSIS PREPARED BY VEDAT URAS, OWNER AND PUBLISHER OF "PULSE", A WELL-KNOWN DAILY ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS SUMMARY. "DIPLOMAT" IS NOT NORMALLY REQD BY TURKS, BUT IS WIDELY READ WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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2. TEXT AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: WHILE FEDERAL GERMANY WAS ROCKING WITH THE DISCOVERIES OF EAST GERMAN SPIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION, TWO ESPIONAGE CASES WERE REVEALED TO THE TURKISH PUBLIC AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR. (PARA) THE SENSATIONAL FIRST CASE INVOLVED A HIGH INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL, SABAHATTIN SAVASMAN. EQUALLY SHATTERING WAS THE DISCOVERY THAT THE COUNTRY BEHIND

HIM WAS THE UNITED STATES. THE CAPTURE IN AN ALLIES COUNTRY OF A TOP-LEVEL SPY WORKING FOR THE LEADER OF AN ALLIANCE MUST BE UNIQUE. (PARA) SAVASMAN'S LAWYERS AND HIS WIFE SAID TO THE PRESS THAT IT WAS ALL A PLOT AGAINST HIM BECAUSE HE WAS SOON TO BECOME THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (MIT). BUT IN TRUTH THIS WAS NOT SO AND THERE WAS ENOUGH TANGIBLE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM TO ALLOW THE ARREST OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL. HE WAS IN POSSESSION OF TOP-SECERT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING TURKEYS NATIONAL SECURITY WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE AGENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION. (PARA) THE SCANDAL CONCERNING MIT--AND IT IS ONE WHICH IS LIKELY TO COST SOME HIGH OFFICIALS THEIR POSITIONS--WAS MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR BY THE ADMIRABLE SUCCESS OF THE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION IN CAPTURING A PERSON WHO SHOULD BE OF THE HIGHEST CALIBRE. IT ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE SUPERIOR INTERNAL VIGILANCE OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION. END QUOTE. SPIERS

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